

15th COMPOSITION COMPETITION of the Fribourg International Festival of Sacred Music (FIMS), Switzerland Competition Rules

In partnership with Espace 2 – RTS (Radio Télévision Suisse)

1 PREAMBLE

The mission of the Fribourg International Festival of Sacred Music (FIMS) Association is to promote sacred music in all its forms. To this end, it organises a festival every two years, and has regularly held a Sacred Music Composition Competition, hereinafter 'the Competition', since 1985.

The Competition aims to foster the creation of original works inspired by sacred texts or themes.

2 ENTRY CONDITIONS

- 2.1 The Competition is open to composers of all ages and nationalities.
- 2.2 Previous prizewinners may not enter the Competition.
- 2.3 Composers who have been awarded a special mention at one or more previous Competitions may enter.
- 2.4 Participation in the Competition is anonymous. The score must not bear any name or signature. Instead, it should be marked with a personal identification number (ID) of the entrant's choosing. The ID must be at least eight characters long and contain a combination of numbers and upper- and lower-case letters (e.g. 58F4g32x).
- 2.5 The performance time must be specified on the first page of the score.
- 2.6 The work must be completely original and hitherto unpublished. It must never have been performed publicly or broadcast, either in part or in its entirety.
- 2.7 Competition entries must be submitted via email. Any entry which does not meet the submission rules, is incomplete, or contains electronic files that do not satisfy the requirements stipulated in Section 4 will not be considered and will be declared invalid.

3 15th EDITION OF THE COMPETITION

3.1 COMPOSITION BRIEF

The work must be written **exclusively** for 8 voices (2 sopranos, 1alto, 3 tenors, 1 baritone, and 1 bass) and two natural French horns (from around 1820), in the horn's different keys

(low B flat, C, D, E flat, E, F, G, A flat, A, high B flat and high C) and played using the hand-stopping technique.

Detailed information can be found here: <https://chk.me/X1LrWD>

The composition should draw inspiration from the Gregorian chant 'Media vita in morte sumus'.

The composition should be **between 10 and 15 minutes long**. The performance time must be specified on the first page of the score.

4 SUBMISSION RULES

4.1 The following documents must be submitted using the online registration form available on the website: <https://fims-fribourg.ch/fr/inscription-concours-de-composition>

- one copy of the score as a .pdf file (include title of the work in file name)
- a short CV (include the word 'CV' in file name)
- 2 passport photos of the composer as jpeg files; max. size: 2MB (include the word 'Photos' in file name)
- a brief presentation (max. 1 A4 page) of the work in French, German or English (include the word 'Presentation' in file name)

4.2 Entry confirmation will be issued only upon receipt of all the documents listed in Section 4.1.

4.3 Entry deadline: **Midnight, 15 October 2025.**

5 FILE FORMAT

5.1 The name of the pdf file containing the score must feature:

- the score's ID number (ID)
- the title of the work, and
- the competition year, i.e. 2025

Example: 58F4g32x-Title_of_the_work-2025.pdf

Any deviation from these conventions will render the file inadmissible.

5.2 The names of all other electronic files must feature:

- the score ID number,
- the competition year, i.e. 2025, and
- file extension identifying the file format (.pdf, .jpeg etc.)

Examples: Entry form-58F4g32x-2025.pdf; CV-58F4g32x-2025.pdf; Photos-58F4g32x-2025.jpeg; Presentation-58F4g32x-2025.pdf

- 5.3 Where musical composition or notation software has been used, the entrant may also submit an audio file (optional).

6 INTERNATIONAL JURY

The five members of the Competition jury are:

Xavier Dayer, President of the jury (Switzerland), composer
Chaya Czernowin (Israel), composer
Isabel Mundry (Germany), composer
Alberto Posadas (Spain), composer
Björn Schmelzer (Belgium), artistic director of Graindelavoix

7 DELIBERATIONS OF THE JURY

- 7.1 The jury deliberations will take place from 3 to 5 November 2025, in Fribourg, Switzerland.
- 7.2 The Competition organisers reserve the right to alter the make-up of the jury at any time insofar as there are compelling reasons to do so.

8 PRIZES

- 8.1 First prize: CHF 10,000 (ten thousand Swiss francs)
- 8.2 Second prize: CHF 2,000 (two thousand Swiss francs)
- 8.3 Barring exceptional circumstances beyond the organisers' control, the performance of the winning work of the 2025 FIMS Composition Competition will take place during the 21st Fribourg International Festival of Sacred Music, which will take place from 4

to 12 July 2026 in the church of the Collège Saint-Michel, Fribourg (Switzerland). It will be performed by the Ensemble Graindelavoix.

- 8.4 The jury reserves the right not to award any prizes.
- 8.5 The jury may single out works of particular interest for special mention.
- 8.6 The decisions of the jury are final.

9 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS

- 9.1 The decisions of the jury will be made known to a notary public who alone is authorised to disclose the identity of the winners. A press release will be issued detailing the decisions of the jury.
- 9.2 All entrants will be informed in writing of the decisions of the jury.

10 PERFORMANCE OF THE WINNING COMPOSITION

- 10.1 All material (score and required documentation) pertaining to the work awarded first place in the Competition should be submitted to the FIMS secretariat no later than 15 January 2026. The same will apply to the Competition runner-up in the event that his/her work will also be performed.
- 10.2 Given that Swiss legislation already protects the rights of the author, the prizewinning composer will not receive any additional payment for the performance of his/her work during the radio broadcast of the concert. The same will apply to the Competition runner-up in the event that his/her work will also be performed.
- 10.3 The 2025 prizewinning work must not be performed publicly before its premiere, which is scheduled to take place between 4 and 12 July, in Fribourg, Switzerland. The same will apply to the Competition runner-up in the event that his/her work will also be performed.

11 PRESERVATION OF THE WORKS

- 11.1 All scores entered in the Competition will remain in the possession of the Fribourg International Festival of Sacred Music and will be kept at the Cantonal and University Library of Fribourg, Switzerland (BCU/KUB).
- 11.2 The scores may be consulted by interested parties but may not be used or copied without the prior consent of the composer.

12 PUBLICATION OF THE WORKS

The Competition organisers reserve the right to publish any of the works according to the contractual terms and conditions which have been agreed beforehand with the composers.

13 FINAL PROVISIONS

By participating in the Competition, applicants accept its terms and conditions, and recognise Fribourg (Switzerland) as the place of jurisdiction.